THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): There are 62 Cantonments in the country and in all the Cantonments, troops have been stationed according to the operational needs of the Defence Forces, During the year 2008-2009, an expenditure of Rs.44 crore has been incurred on 26 deficit Cantonment Boards as Grants-in-Aid.

Maritime Security Advisory Board

2762. SHRI D. RAJA:
SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has a proposal under consideration to create a Maritime Security Advisory Board for better Coordination of agencies;

(b) if so, the details thereof and what action has been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Mechanisms already exist for coordination among various agencies with a view to ensuring maritime security. These are strengthened from time to time depending upon the requirements and security challenges.

Export of rice by private companies

2763. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently rice was exported to some African countries by a private trading company contrary to the Government guidelines regarding Export through Public Sector Units; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The Government of India notified during 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 export of Non-Basmati Rice to certain African countries through the PSUs - MMTC, STC and PEC. Export to the African countries was done by the PSUs, as evidenced by documents of export, to the buyers in these countries identified by the respective African countries.

Fast interceptor boats for Sagar Prahari Bal

2764. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:
SHRI D. RAJA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after Mumbai terrorist attacks, Government had announced that the Navy would get 80 fast interceptor boats for a new specialized force 'Sagar Prahari Bal with 1000 personnel; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and what action has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, with a view to strengthening coastal security and surveillance, Government has approved 'Sagar Prahari Bal in the Indian Navy, comprising of 1000 personnel with 80 fast attack crafts. Navy will carry out shallow water